



March 17, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the 43 states that are members of the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance, we are pleased to nominate Julie Tritt Schell to fill the schools representative vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Ms. Tritt Schell has served as the State E-rate Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Education since 1997, providing E-rate outreach, coordination and assistance to more than 1500 school and library entities throughout the state. Pennsylvania's demographics include large and small, urban and rural schools and therefore she is keenly aware of both the E-rate and telecommunications challenges that affect most applicant types. She maintains a statewide E-rate listserve and website, and participates in more than a dozen state and national conferences annually, including training workshops for both beginners and veteran E-rate applicants. In addition to the 400-page E-rate Training Manual that she assembles annually for new Pennsylvania applicants, she has written national articles on E-rate and served on several SLC/SLD task forces formed to improve the program and re-engineer the application forms. She also is responsible for aligning Pennsylvania's technology plan standards, guidelines, and approval processes with FCC requirements.

Ms. Tritt Schell previously served as the Director of Educational Technology for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in that capacity was responsible for all K-12 and higher education technology policy and initiatives. Prior to joining the Commonwealth, she provided government relations for public education on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

In addition to her state E-rate coordination role, she has been an active leader in the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance, by participating in weekly conference calls with other state E-rate coordinators and representatives of the FCC and USAC. In representing the interests of school applicants, she has written comments to the FCC on behalf of Pennsylvania schools and contributes to the development of SECA policy positions and FCC filings.

Julie Tritt Schell has a public policy and education background and is well-known at the local, state and national level as an E-rate expert who can see and respect all sides of an issue and who helps to develop solutions based on consensus. Her broad range of knowledge of the program and its operations, both from the applicant level and the national policy level makes her extremely well-suited to represent the interests of schools on the USAC Board. It is with pride that we nominate her as the schools representative to the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Gary Rawson, Chair  
State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance